

words as unto "a light that shineth in a dark place."

2. The Bible gives to the church the form of doctrine for this dispensation. Men may think that they can improve upon the form of the ordinances and substitute various lodge initiations with their symbolic teaching, but nothing can take the place of the simple symbols of the new birth and the source of our new life. These truths are vital. Without them the world would drift into the helpless condition it was in when Christianity entered it with its transforming power.

3. The Bible furnishes to the church its messages for the world—the deathless theme of the love of God manifested in the life and death and resurrection and constant help of the Lord Jesus Christ. Every page leads us to this central truth. Every text contains a sermon and some a thousand sermons. No minister of the church need give to the people empty husks with the exhaustless granary of the word before him.

4. The Bible gives to the church the principles which should guide its policy in the world. Not all the details of organization and methods were given us verbatim, but the history of the Apostolic church is given far enough that we may glean from it the Spirit-given principles which we may apply to conditions today. No new enterprise should be launched without first seeking guidance from God thru the Word.

5. The Bible gives to the church as it gives to individuals the inspiration which is needed for service. It reveals the need, the call, the power, the love, the reward. It appeals to every worthy motive to incite activity for the kingdom. It sends out the ministers and the missionaries. It opens the pocketbooks and the homes of the people. It drives the wheels of the printing press and opens the doors of the college. It sends the law workers to the by-ways and hedges, to the poor and afflicted, to the sinful and despairing. A revival in Bible study, earnest, prayerful, Bible study on the part of the church would transform the church and the world. Never fear higher criticism or the advance of science or the leer of the sceptic, or the materialism of the age. The Bible has risen triumphant above worse foes than these and still shines on to lead God's people unto him who yet shall reign from sea to sea.

C. F. YODER.

AGENTS OF GOD'S COMFORT

C. H. WETHERBE

It is a most inspiring truth that Christians may be agents of God's comfort. It is thru his people that God bears the treasures of his comfort to those of his children who feel weak, weary, over-done and well nigh defeated. Here is a very suggestive passage from Paul's second letter to the Corinthians (7:6): "Nevertheless, He that comforteth the lowly, even God, comforted us by the coming of Titus; and not by his coming only, but also by the comfort wherewith he

was comforted in you." Paul states that it was God who gave them comfort, not in a specially direct manner, as by a sort of spiritual, invisible dispensation, but thru Titus. Titus was God's agent of his own comfort, sent in a time of special need to Paul and others. The presence of Titus, his words of cheer, of counsel, of courage, of hope, were a dispensation of inspiring comfort to that company of Christians who, just then, most highly appreciated comfort. And do not forget that Paul himself, with all of his courage, faith and resoluteness, needed comfort as well as other Christians; and he and they regarded the comfort which they received thru Titus as being God's comfort, and they thanked him for it as well as Titus.

Notice also that a part of the comfort which Titus took to those Christians he received by his knowledge of the experiences of the Corinthian Christians, for Paul states that Titus was comforted in those Christians, as he saw their longing and mourning and zeal for Paul; and this comfort Titus carried to Paul and his companions. Now, we may infer from the picture thus presented that when we ask God to give us comfort it would be just like him to commission some one to come to us and tell us something which would fill us with comfort, and thus with spiritual strength. We have had people come to us when we were worn, weary and sad, and they have so spoken to us that we forgot all about our weariness and sadness, and felt very much stronger. This was God's comfort to us thru one of his agents, yet we did not think to thank God for it. Then, too, we ought to be God's agents of comfort to others, which means that we ought to visit the sick, afflicted and disheartened and so speak to them as to greatly comfort them.

PULPIT ECHOES

The Year 1901

The year 1901 will take its place in history as one among the most remarkable. It proved a year remarkably blended with joys and sorrows.

It did not usher in the peaceful millennial era. War, greed and bloodshed are still rampant. It has emptied loads of sin upon the shoulders of the new year. The sneak thief still prowls in the dark and the robber of virtue is still abroad. The green-eyed monster of jealousy still lies in ambush. The assassin is still defiant. Guilty conscience can still be numbered by the thousands. Pain, sickness and death still linger with us.

But it has been a year fraught with great blessing. I believe it will prove in history to have been a fundamental year. The civilized nations of earth are becoming more interested in the great problems of peace and good will. Great hearts and giant minds are developing thought along these lines. The rich fool must give way to the man of brains and character. Wine bibbers and gluttons must soon make their exit. Greater still things that are good are being developed.

Bombardments against the citadel of progress are becoming fainter. The pessimist is about ready for burial and the courage of healthy manhood will deal with affairs, in the name, wisdom and strength of God.

In the name of God, humanity and salvation we ask you Christians to face the mighty problems of today in the spirit and fervour of true manhood. Be up to date along this line and develop your God given powers for greater good than ever during 1902.

W. J. H. BAUMAN.

First Things

In the building of a Christian character some elements stand first.

Jesus said that these first principles were the kingdom of God and what he thinks is right, not what *man* might think was right, but what *God* thinks is right.

Our opinions and judgments are too often set up as right when Christ's word stands against it.

In Christ's time many of the people lived and acted as tho property was more important than right actions. Hence came his significant and sweeping command, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things shall be added." If I was wise and necessary for Jesus to make use of such strong and cutting words then, how would it be now if Jesus were here in person?

Governor Russel said to a graduating class in the east: "To make a living is a secondary matter; to make a life is first." It is essential to eat but not so essential as to do right.

It is good to have pleasure, recreation and joys; but not as essential as it is to be true. It is very wrong to teach the child that it will do to sow wild oats when young.

The kingdom of God and what he thinks is right are first in importance and value.

When we make these principles our constant and living motto all other necessary things will be added. Such as food, raiment, pleasures and growth in the Christ life.

Z. T. LIVENGOD.

A Laborer of God

Those who have caught a glimpse of Jesus and in any way realize their duty to him, can not refuse to obey him and enjoy real happiness. Tradition tells us that after the rich young ruler saw and heard Jesus he made the great refusal and went home but all his wealth brought no happiness to him. He "wandered as a shadow thru a phantom world." But ceasing his struggle and fulfilling his vision he found the cross to be the golden key to the door of real happiness and contentment. You may have wealth, position or fame, you may belong to all the organizations of the world, but the only true way to happiness is by way of the cross and being a laborer for God, enlisted under the banner of King Emmanuel, the Savior of men. In the drama of the world find your place.